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**Date:** January 25, 2006 **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ .m. (Minneapolis)  
**Number of pages (including this page):** 14 **F&B File No.:** 307894 **Rec.:** 6038  
**From:** Scott A. Marks **Telephone Number:** 612/766-7820  
**To:** WILLSE, David H. **Fax No.:** 571-273-8300  
Art Unit: 3738 **Phone No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

Patent & Trademark Office, Technology Center 3700

<b>Inventor(s):</b> STEPHEN D. KUSLICH et al.	<b>Examiner:</b> WILLSE, David H.
<b>Appln. No.:</b> 10/627,589	<b>Group Art Unit:</b> 3738
<b>Filing Date:</b> July 25, 2003	
<b>Title:</b> LAPAROSCOPIC SPINAL STABILIZATION SURGICAL METHOD	<b>Docket No.</b> 75028-307894

**Documents attached:**

Reply After Final Office Action (9 pages)  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal (1 page)  
Petition for Extension of Time (2 months) (1 page)  
Revocation and New Powers of Attorney (1 page)  
Credit Card Payment Form (\$1,240) (1 page)

**If you do not receive all pages, please call the Fax Center at 612/766-1650 or Elaine Raiten at 612/766-8728.**

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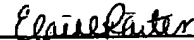
## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<b>Inventor(s):</b> STEPHEN D. KUSLICH et al.	<b>Examiner:</b> WILLSE, David H.
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Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450I CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING FACSIMILE  
TRANSMITTED TO THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (FAX  
No. (571) 273-8300), ON JANUARY 25, 2006.

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING THIS CERTIFICATE:

Elaine Raiten

**REPLY AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

This Reply is responsive to the outstanding Office Action mailed September 8, 2005. A Request for Continued Examination, a petition for a two-month time extension and corresponding fees are submitted herewith. However, if any additional fee is required for entry of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account 06-0029 and is requested to notify us of the same.

This Reply includes the following:

- **Amendments to the Claims** (pages 2-6); and
- **Remarks** (pages 7-9).

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